Oklahoma Chess Monthly

AUGUST 2018

Chess News and Chess History for Oklahoma

OCM

Sherlock Holmes' Chess Adventure!

In This Issue:

- Jerry Spann Memorial
- Kansas Open
- Arkansas Open
- Sherlock Holmes!
- Advait Patel at U.S. Junior
- Plus News Bites, Game of the Month, Puzzles, Top 25 List, Tournament Reports, and more.

A big issue this month reporting on all the traditional Summer tournaments taking place in July, plus news of Advait Patel in the U.S. Junior Championship, a feature Sherlock Holmes Chess Adventure, and more!

Jerry Spann Memorial 50th Anniversary 2018: Patton Upsets

by Tom Braunlich

50 years ago Jerry Spann passed away, the beloved chess organizer who was USCF President 1957-1960 and is widely regarded as saving the national organization from bankruptcy. That year the players of Oklahoma unanimously voted that forever after the Oklahoma state championship tournament should be called the Jerry Spann Memorial.

This year is its 50th Anniversary, and the tournament was held July 14-15 in Oklahoma City at the Wyndham Hotel. The open section was strong, with one master and eight experts (and this with NM Tom Braunlich only directing

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this year, and NMs Sergey Galant and Howard Zhong unable to play).

The upset winner was 4th-ranked Tom Patton, who once again demonstrated how strong he can play when he is on a roll. He began with a quiet first-round draw with Mike Parker (1721) then ripped off four straight wins including one over A. Paolercio (2124), a nice endgame win over Texas expert Devina Devagharan (2080), and a last-round defeat of NM Mark Hulsey (2233). The latter game is "Game of the Month" annotated by Patton on page 13.

Patton won $500 first and the traditional Jerry Spann Memorial title.

Winner Tom Patton (right) vs Mark Hulsey in the final round. (Photo: R.Rutledge)

Hulsey, who is on his way to play in the U.S. Senior Championship in August as the Oklahoma representative at the U.S. Open, played strong chess winning his first four games relatively smoothly before his last-round run-in with Patton. He won $165 in a tie for 2nd place with expert David Phillips.

Jim Huang and Maxwell Barnes won the U1900 prize of $122.50

Surprise Reserve Section Winner!

The Reserve (U1600) Section was very hard fought and ended with a rather shocking victory by 9-year-old Kelvin Xie (1328) with 4.5 points.

Going into the last round Xie was tied with Gabe Coss (1397) with 3.5 (with whom he had drawn in round 4). Coss was playing Carlos Garcia (1535) while Xie played Adley Bufford (1379). Bufford was winning the whole game, with two rooks and a 7th-rank pawn for a queen, while Xie was reduced to desperation checks; but suddenly Adley walked into a self-mate and lost. Meanwhile Coss and Garcia battled to a draw, leaving young Kelvin alone at 4.5 points as the winner.

Kelvin Xie, in his usual "quiet but deadly" mode in his round 4 draw with Gabe Coss. Note that Gabe is using his handmade Dubrovnik chess set featured in last month's OCM. (Photo: R.Rutledge)

Congrats to Kelvin, who won $235 and whose rating jumped nearly 150 points to 1488! Certainly the nine-year-old is a player to watch in the future, as also is his brother Maxwell who tied for the U1400 prize!

2nd Place in the reserve went to Coss and Eric Green II at $122.50 with 4/5. The U1100 prize went to Colter Bufford ($165) and unrated Elizabeth Braddy was very pleased to get 2nd in U1100 winning $80.

TD was Tom Braunlich assisted by Jim Berry.

See crosstables next page.

See annotated games in the "Games from Recent Events" section starting page 15.

JERRY SPANN MEMORIAL 2018
JULY 14-15 • OKLAHOMA CITY OK • Wyndham Hotel
OPEN SECTION

#	Player Name	Rtg (Pre->Post)	Total Pts	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5
1	THOMAS A PATTON	2060->2109	4.5	D 17	W 18	W 4	W 10	W 2
2	MARK ALLEN HULSEY	2233->2238	4.0	W 18	W 14	W 5	W 3	L 1
3	DAVID PHILLIPS	2081->2106	4.0	W 13	W 10	W 7	L 2	W 5
4	DEVINA DEVAGHARAN	2090->2098	3.5	W 12	D 7	L 1	W 14	W 10
5	MATT DALTHORP	2039->2040	3.0	W 9	W 6	L 2	W 13	L 3
6	JOE DEAN VEAL	1976->1972	3.0	W 15	L 5	D 8	D 7	W 11
7	JOSHUA TURIN	2021->2008	2.5	W 8	D 4	L 3	D 6	D 9
8	MAXWELL BARNES	1710->1733	2.5	L 7	W 15	D 6	L 11	W 13
9	JIM HUANG	1663->1703	2.5	L 5	W 16	L 10	W 17	D 7
10	ANTHONY PAOLERCIO	2124->2099	2.0	W 11	L 3	W 9	L 1	L 4
11	RYAN AMBURGY	1956->1926	2.0	L 10	L 13	W 12	W 8	L 6
12	KENNETH JORDAN	1716->1707	2.0	L 4	D 17	L 11	D 15	W 16
13	CHRISTOPHER YOUNG	1628->1697	2.0	L 3	W 11	W 17	L 5	L 8
14	JAMES LONG	1995->1983	1.5	W 16	L 2	H	L 4	U
15	JEREMY L BROWN	1556->1557	1.5	L 6	L 8	L 16	D 12	W 17
16	LOUCAS MILLER	1560->1554	1.5	L 14	L 9	W 15	H	L 12
17	MICHAEL PARKER	1746->1699	1.0	D 1	D 12	L 13	L 9	L 15
18	SHAUN GRAHAM	1969->1956	0.5	L 2	L 1	H	U	U

JERRY SPANN MEMORIAL 2018
JULY 14-15 • OKLAHOMA CITY OK • Wyndham Hotel
RESERVE SECTION

#	Player Name	Rtg (Pre->Post)	Total Pts	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5
1	KELVIN XIE	1342->1488	4.5	W 21	W 11	W 6	D 2	W 7
2	GABE A COSS	1397->1469	4.0	W 10	W 16	W 7	D 1	D 5
3	ERIC GREEN II	1312->1422	4.0	W 22	D 5	D 4	W 15	W 6
4	FRANCIS M IRENGE	1596->1581	3.5	W 9	L 7	D 3	W 19	W 11
5	CARLOS GARCIA	1535->1540	3.5	W 14	D 3	W 12	D 11	D 2
6	JOHN WILLIAMS III	1506->1484	3.0	W 19	W 8	L 1	W 12	L 3
7	ADLEY BUFFORD	1419->1425	3.0	W 20	W 4	L 2	W 9	L 1
8	MAXWELL XIE	1276->1276	3.0	W 13	L 6	D 19	W 18	D 12
9	GABRIEL TEUBNER	1215->1250	3.0	L 4	W 20	W 10	L 7	W 14
10	COLTER BUFFORD	920 ->1134	3.0	L 2	W 23	L 9	W 17	W 18
11	BRUCE WELLS	1545->1520	2.5	W 15	L 1	W 14	D 5	L 4
12	ACHILLES B MILLER	1267->1303	2.5	W 23	W 18	L 5	L 6	D 8
13	ELIZABETH BRADDY	UNR-> 884	2.5	L 8	L 19	H	W 21	W 20
14	PRESTON WADE	1341->1309	2.0	L 5	W 17	L 11	W 16	L 9
15	CHRIS AMBURGY	1226->1232	2.0	L 11	W 21	W 16	L 3	U
16	KERSI BHARUCHA	1274->1229	2.0	W 17	L 2	L 15	L 14	W 19
17	LUKE ALLEN SEIDL	UNR-> 790	2.0	L 16	L 14	W 21	L 10	W 22
18	ROBERT L JONES	1278->1206	1.5	H	L 12	W 22	L 8	L 10
19	PRESTON KOLOEN	1009->1026	1.5	L 6	W 13	D 8	L 4	L 16
20	PHILLIP WILSON	843 -> 777	1.5	L 7	L 9	H	W 22	L 13
21	KENSTON WADE	442 -> 424	1.0	L 1	L 15	L 17	L 13	B
22	ARIANNA BUFFORD	101 -> 102	1.0	L 3	B	L 18	L 20	L 17
23	SCOTT BAKER	1583->1513	0.0	L 12	L 10	U	U	U

KANSAS OPEN 2018

by Laurence Coker

The 2018 Kansas Open was held July 13-15 at the Clarion Hotel in Lenexa, Kansas. It was well attended with 8 teams in the Bughouse, 35 entries in the Blitz, and 127 in the main tourney: 30 in Open, 39 in Reserve, and 58 in the Amateur sections.

Bughouse: The team of Ben Gradsky and Tony Dutiel won first with a score of 7 out of 8. They pretty much dominate Bughouse play in this part of the country, and this was their third win in this event in the last three years.

Blitz: Ben Gradsky and Brian Yang tied for first with 8.5/10. Brian received Kansas Blitz champion award on tiebreaks. Tied for third at 8.0 points were Jack Easton and Missouri player Ron Luther.

Main Event, Open Section: The competitive Open section saw a four-way tie with 4/5 between Kansas players Rahul Mepparambath and Jack Easton and Missouri players IM Michael Brooks and Benjamin Shoykhet. On tiebreaks, Jack Easton is crowned the 2018 Kansas State champion. This is the third year in a row this scholastic player has won the Kansas Championship.

This is the longest winning streak of Kansas Championships since Michael Weirzbicki won or tied the title nine times in a row from 1981 to 1989.

Main Event, Reserve section: Sky Moerlien and Ryan Duan tied for first place. They drew their last game as they played each other in the last round. Sky Moerlien is crowned 2018 Kansas reserve champion on tiebreaks. *(He also did well in the Frank K Berry Memorial, and is a player to watch.-TB)*

Main Event, Amateur section: In first place by himself was Kansanr Michael N. Paulson.

He finished with a perfect 5 wins in 5 games. He is the 2018 Kansas Amateur champion.

Make plans for the 2019 Kansas Open. It will be in Wichita at the Holiday Inn, Kansas July 19 to 21. This is the same site as the 2017 Kansas Open.

See games from the Kansas Open in “Games from Recent Events” (page 15).

Special thanks to Brian Yang and CJ Armenta who did another outstanding job of directing our tourney again this year.

Jack Easton (right) receives his third consecutive Kansas Open Championship trophy from TD Brian Yang.

Sky Moerlien (right) receiving the Kansas Reserve Champion trophy from TD Brian Yang.

See all the tournament crosstables here:

http://www.kansaschess.org/htdocs/2018KansasOpenCrosstables.pdf

2018 AR State Championship Has a Surprise Winner

The 2018 Arkansas Championship, held July 21-22 in Fort Smith, had 10 players in the Premier section, 27 in the U1800 Reserve section, and 37 in an unrated novice section.

The winner was a '*mysterious'* new National Master, *Waldemar Ortiz,* whose provisional rating after just 14 rated games places him at 2222. His only other USCF tournaments were at the Marshall Chess Club in New York, but apparently he is from Puerto Rico, transplanted now to Centerton AR, with a FIDE rating of 2139. He is clearly a strong new player in the regional scene here, as can be seen by his 4-1 score to win this tournament and $525 plus the title, including this drawn game against perennial Arkansas Champion Bill Orton:

Ortiz, Waldimir (2202/9)
Orton, Bill (2200)
Arkansas State Ch 28-07-2018 (3) [A43]
1. d4 c5 2. d5 d6 3. c4 g6 4. Nc3 Bg7 5. e4 Bxc3+ 6. bxc3 Nf6 7. Bd3 Qa5 8. Ne2 Nbd7 9. f4 Nb6 10. h3 Qa4 11. Qb3 Qxb3 12. axb3 Nbd7 13. b4 b6 14. Be3 e5 15.O-O Ke7 16. Rf2 Nh5 17. f5 f6 18. g4 Ng7 19. g5 Nh5 20. h4 Rg8 21. Kh2 a6 22.Raf1 Bb7 23. Ng1 Raf8 24. fxg6 hxg6 25. Nh3 Bc8 26. Be2 fxg5 27. Bxg5+ Ke8 28.Bg4 Rxf2+ 29. Rxf2 Rf8 30. Rxf8+ Kxf8 31. Bd8 Ke8 32. Bg5
(32. Bc7 Nhf6! 33. Be6 a5! Black is better (Fritz))
32...a5 33. b5 Nhf6 34.Bf3 Kf7 35. Nf2 Nf8 36. Nd3 N8h7 37. Bc1 Nh5 38. Nb2 N7f6 39. Na4 Nd7 40. Bg5 Nhf6 41. Kg3 Kg7 42. Bg2 Kf7 43. Kf3 Nh7 44. Bd8 g5 45. Bh3 gxh4 46. Bxh4 Nhf6 47. Bf5 Kg7 48. Bg5 Kf7 49. Bxf6 Kxf6 ½ - ½

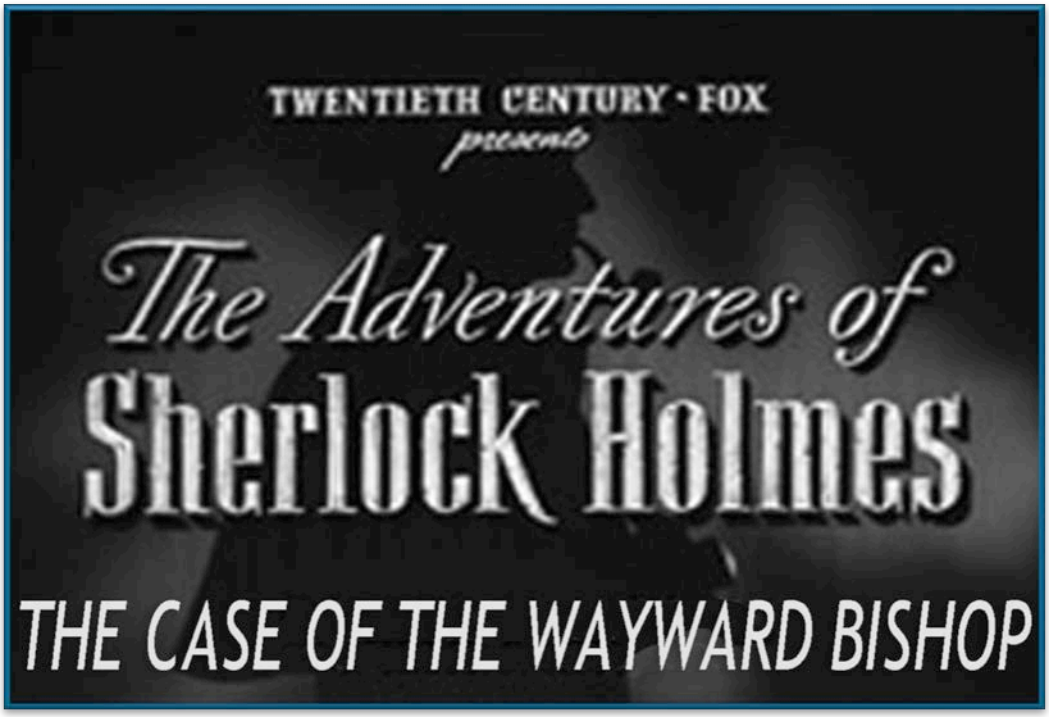
2nd place went to Dennis Cummings of Hot Springs, a visually-impaired veteran expert, with 3-2 along with Thoshan Oprakash (NJ) and Joseph Holms who won Class A.

The Reserve Section was won by James E Morgan (1547) who took advantage of a late-game blunder in a pawn up position by Okie Jim Huang to win the tournament outright with a 4.5 score (the only blemish being a half-point bye) and gained 80 rating points.

The tournament had a record $2100 prize fund and was sponsored by the WestArk Chess Club in Fort Smith, and organized and directed by Karis Bellisario, assisted by Joel Gargus.

See Crosstables here:
http://www.uschess.org/component/option,com_wrapper/Itemid,181/
Photos on Facebook here:
https://www.facebook.com/pg/ArkansasChess/photos/?tab=album&album_id=1728007017324846

Waldemar Ortiz, the Premier winner, is shown above. Below is Reserve winner James E Morgan with Karis Bellisario. Photos by Karis B.

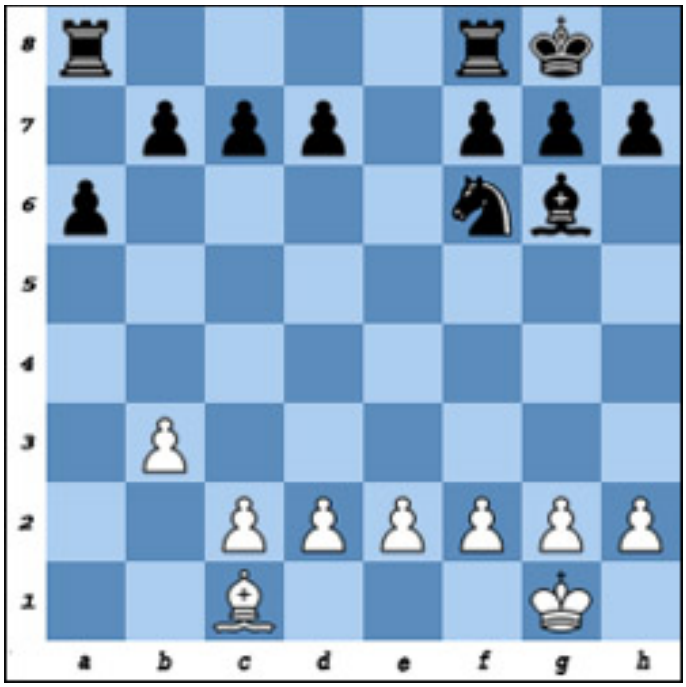


A Sherlock Holmes Chess Mystery, as told by Doctor Watson…

by Tom Braunlich, with apologies to R. Smullyan

After returning from an enjoyable evening at the opera *Les Huguenots*, starring *Jean de Reszke*, Holmes and I were accosted at the threshold of 221B Baker Street by an employee of the Wakefield Vicarage, who informed us of the vile murder of the Vicar this very evening and implored us to investigate the scene of the crime. Thus began our most challenging chess adventure!

Hastening to the vicarage on Bray Street, we were escorted into the dark-paneled game room wherein lay Oswald Beatty, the vicar, slumped sideways across one of the chairs at a chess table, a deep stab wound in his chest. The deceased was well known to be one of the strongest chess masters in London, and not surprisingly the only furniture in the room was a sturdy large chess table with two chairs. A ceiling light illuminated an unfinished game position on the board:



Looking around the Spartan room, I could see no obvious sources of evidence to guide our sleuth. No footprints or blood trails. There was no murder weapon present, just the chess equipment and an array of wall shelves filled with chess books.

"My word Holmes, the room is devoid of obvious clues, how can you proceed?" I said.

"Watson, the world is full of obvious things

For AUGUST 2018

	Top 25 Active Oklahoma Players			
	Player	This Month	Change +/-	
1	Advait Patel	2573	3	
2	Howard Zhong	2299	0	
3	Daniel Ng	2273	0	
4	Mark Hulsey	2238	5	
5	Bart Gibbons	2217	0	
6	Tom Braunlich	2200	0	
7	Sergey Galant	2188	0	
8	Joshua Alexander	2142	0	
9	Tom Patton	2109	49	▲
10	Chibuzo C Ilonze	2107	0	
11	Anthony Paolercio	2099	-25	▼
12	Logan Zachare	2089	13	▲
13	Adonis Turner	2084	-19	▼
14	John Cope	2084	0	▼
15	Charles D Unruh	2072	10	▲
16	Chuck Johnson	2063	0	
17	David Luscomb	2054	-18	▼
18	Veronika Zilajeva	2046	16	▲
19	Michael Nugent	2042	0	▲
20	Matt Dalthorp	2040	-5	▼
21	Charles M Unruh	2037	0	
22	Alan Islas	2024	0	▲
23	Jeff Colbert	1998	0	▲
24	James Long	1983	-21	
25	Joe Dean Veal	1972	-20	
25	Neil Naputo Sr	1972	0	

Player of the Month

TOM PATTON

The veteran expert was in "dangerous mode" again at the 50th Anniversary Jerry Spann Memorial and could not be stopped in middlegame or ending…

which nobody by any chance ever observes," he replied. "In this case there is one very important clue, although it only will lead us to another clue I am afraid."

"I will be quiet then," I said.

"You have the grand gift of silence, Watson. It makes you quite invaluable as a companion." Holmes replied.

Holmes leaned down and extracted a white pawn that was clutched in the victim's hand.

Examining it with his magnifying glass, he saw upon the felt on the bottom of the pawn was scrawled in ink a short cryptic phrase.

White's 1st B move?

"How strange!" I cried. "Was he playing chess when he was stabbed, clutching the pawn in his death throes? Perhaps his murderer was a long-time chess friend of his."

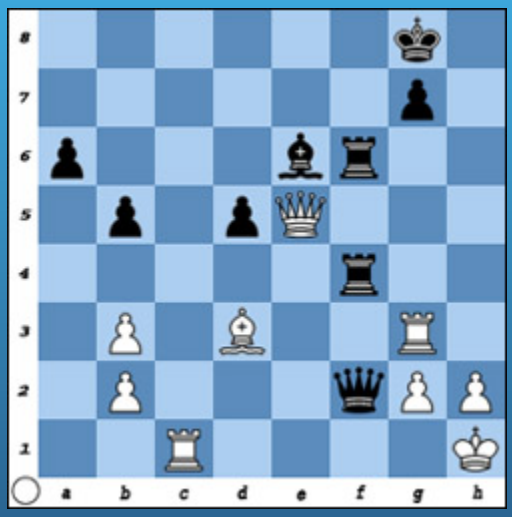
"Never theorize before you have data, my eager old friend, you end up twisting facts to suit theories, instead of theories to suit facts. Clearly they were not playing a real game of chess," Holmes continued, "since the position is ridiculous for a player of Beatty's caliber. This position was composed. Watson, it may be that the victim was posing a problem that would point to his own murderer!"

"Why Holmes, that's extraordinary! If he had the time to do that why wouldn't he just write down the name of the murderer for us?"

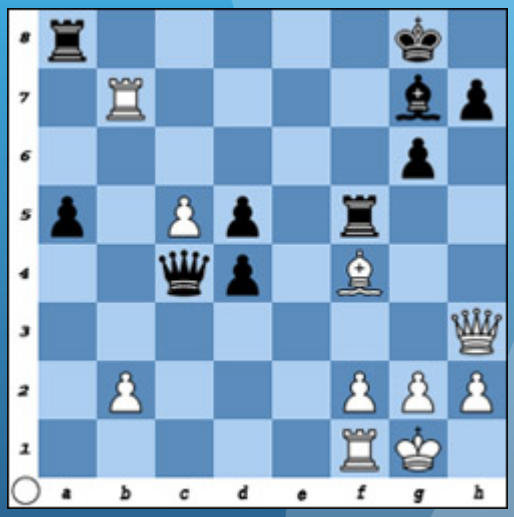
"Dear God, what is it like in your funny little brain dear Watson? Obviously the murderer could have remained in the vicarage for some time after the foul deed, and he would have taken or destroyed any such obvious note left behind by the dying vicar whether scrawled on paper or carved into the table. No, Beatty had to hide his accusation for us in plain sight!"

PUZZLES

Answers Next Page



White to move and win. (Medium)



White to move and win. (Medium)

"I'm not sure I understand Holmes," I confessed.

"Mediocrity knows nothing higher than itself, but talent instantly recognizes genius," he replied. "In this case Beatty has apparently found an ingenious way to name his murderer — in a way that the murderer perhaps would not notice and destroy. He has given us a clue thereby — and all we need to do is deduce what was white's first Bishop move in this game, as indicated on the pawn, and presumably that will point the finger to the culprit!"

"The game is afoot Watson!"

The Puzzle: What was white's first bishop move?

CAN YOU DISCOVER IT?

SEE HOW HOLMES FINDS NOT ONLY THE SOLUTION BUT PINPOINTS THE MURDERER, ON PAGE 25!

"The precise short calculation of the initial moves in a position is more important than the ability to calculate long lines. A mistake in the first moves is more dangerous.

The key to solving a problem is the DISCOVERY of the best continuation, but not its calculation."

—GM Artur Yusupov

Answers to the Puzzles

(1) Both sides have serious threats here, but white moves first and wins with carefully-timed rook sacs: 1. Rc8+!, Bxc8 2. Qe8+, Rf8 3. Rxg7+! Kxg7 4. Qg6+ Kh8 5. Qh7#

(2) From the game Goredievsky-Oganian, Russian Higher League 2018. White has pressure on the 7th rank particularly aimed at the h7 pawn, and only black's bishop blocks this. But how can white break through? The answer is the surprising 1. Be5!!.
Now if 1...Rxe5 2. Qd7 sneaks onto the 7th rank and wins.
So 1...Bxe5 which leads to 2. Qxh7+, Kf8 3. Qh6!+ followed next by 4. Qxg6+ winning the rook and the game.

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		Name	Rtg.		Pts.	n	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	GM	Liang,A	2569	WI	6.5	9		½	½	½	1	1	½	1	½	1
2	IM	Patel,A	2461	OK	6.0	9	½		0	½	1	½	1	1	½	1
3	GM	Chandra,A	2486	MO	5.0	9	½	1		½	0	½	1	0	1	½
4	GM	Burke,J	2608	NJ	5.0	9	½	½	½		1	½	0	½	1	½
5	FM	Bian,A	2291	IL	5.0	9	0	0	1	0		1	0	1	1	1
6	IM	Balakrishnan,P	2411	VA	4.5	9	0	½	½	½	0		½	½	1	1
7	GM	Li,R	2583	TX	4.0	9	½	0	0	1	1	½		½	½	0
8		Brattain,M	2399	MA	3.5	9	0	0	1	½	0	½	½		0	1
8	GM	Tang,A	2507	MN	3.5	9	½	½	0	0	0	0	½	1		1
10	WIM	Wang,A	2299	CA	2.0	9	0	0	½	½	0	0	1	0	0	

PATEL EARNS SECOND PLACE AT U.S. JUNIOR INVITATIONAL

IM Advait Patel of Midwest City made a national splash at the U.S. Junior Championship hosted by the St. Louis Chess Club, July 12-21, 2018, a 10-player round robin that included five(!) grandmasters. This prestigious event has served as the launching point for many American future stars, and at stake was a nice prize fund and a slot in the U.S. Championship next April.

Patel led most of the way. He started with two fascinating wins, then drew smoothly with the defending champion GM Awonder Liang. Another fine win saw him in the sole lead at the halfway point with 4/5. Then disaster in round 6 when GM Akshat Chandra found a crack in Patel's King's Indian to win, allowing a four-way tie for first. In the final three games the luck fell mainly to Liang, who got a gift in round 8 when in a totally drawn ending his opponent blundered, while Patel in a brilliant game had GM John Burke in his pocket, only to have one inattentive moment spoil it and Burke's last chance trap worked to secure a draw. That was the essential ½-point difference in the final crosstable.

PATEL will represent Oklahoma in August at the U.S. Open where he is the top seed in the Denker National Tournament of High School Champions.

The Oklahoma teams include Veronika Zilajeva in the Girl's Event, Ryan Amburgy in the Barber Junior High tourney, and NM Mark Hulsey in the Senior event.

Patel playing speed chess on the sidewalk with two GM rivals kibitzing and IM Jen Shahade looking on. Photos by Austin Fuller, St. Louis Chess Club

CHALLENGERS EASTSIDE OPEN

The Challengers Club Eastside Open Rapid Chess tournament July 21, 2018 ended in a 3-way tied at 3-1 with Joe Veal, Charles M Unruh, and Maxwell Barnes.

The reserve section was dominated 4-0 by Eric Green II who raised his rating to 1475.

Eastside playing hall. Photo by Rebecca Rutledge

Crosstables:
http://www.uschess.org/msa/XtblMain.php?201807217532.2-15737794

WORLD'S LARGEST CHESS PIECE UNVEILED IN St. LOUIS

A giant wooden chess king that is officially recognized by the Guinness Book of World Records as the largest chess piece in the world was unveiled on Monday, May 7th in front of the World Chess Hall of Fame in St. Louis, in a ceremony that included the Mayor and remarks by Rex and Jeanne Sinquefield.

The previous giant king there, which was 14 feet seven inches tall, had been eclipsed recently by one built in Belgium.

The new St. Louis piece reclaims the title, and is 20 feet tall, with a base of 9 feet 2 inches. We are told it weighs 10,860 pounds, or nearly 5½ tons. If a proportionally sized board were made for it, the board would be 80 feet wide, bigger than a basketball court. The king is an exact replica of the special style Staunton pieces made especially for the club in 2013 for the inaugural Sinquefield Cup.

The king is the center element in a chess campus that includes the Hall of Fame, the famous St. Louis Chess Club across the street, the Kingside Diner chess specialty restaurant next door, and the Q-Boutique Chess Shop.

Photo from St. Louis Post-Dispatch

The next major grandmaster event scheduled for the club is the Sinquefield Cup and the St. Louis Rapid & Blitz, both in August.

Opening a Chess Time Capsule: *A Teaser for the Armed Forces Championship…*

By Jim Hollingsworth

I opened a time capsule, today.

I couldn't remember where I had placed a large box of folders containing all my chess game scoresheets, news clippings, cross tables, tournament rating reports, certificates, etc. I found a huge chest in the shed. It was locked and heavy. Could I find the key? I couldn't remember what was inside. I felt something significant was missing. Where was it?

Today, I found the key! I opened the chest. Inside was a large plastic box filled with the missing chess stuff, and more. I moved it inside the house and opened it. It will take days, maybe weeks, to go through everything. It has all the tournaments I played in at Fort Sill and Fort Hood and Korea. One thing that caught my eye is a scrapbook I created when I played in the 1983 Army Chess Championship. I had forgotten I was the Fort Hood Co-Champion that year (along with Tom Nichols). Games and cross tables are there, and some photos. Here is one of me with Major Joe Hill (another chess and army vet), right after the Awards Banquet on 16 September 1983.

In the front of the scrapbook is a letter dated 2 August 1981. It reads "Dear Sergeant Hollingsworth, Congratulations on your selection as a participant in the 1981 Army Chess Championship 7-11 September. Welcome to Fort Meade."

But I didn't go to that one (1981), because just three days later I reported to the Fort Benning Officers Candidate School (OCS). That is another story….

The Texas Armed Forces and Military Veterans Chess Championship is coming up in late September, and eligible players from all states are welcome! See the Upcoming Tournaments page for more info!

2018 Texas Women's Championship held in North Dallas

WFM Devina Devagharan scored 3½/4 to win the 2018 Texas Women's Championship held June 23-24 in North Richland Hills (north Dallas) in the TCA event. Maritta Del Rio Sumner (left in photo), President and CEO of Sumco, LP, presented the award and title to WFM Devagharan (right in photo). Devagharan also played in the Jerry Spann Memorial in July and did impressively well. She is from Euless TX and plays at the Arlington Chess Club, and has had a peak rating of 2174.

17-year-old Ambriette Reed won the Reserve championship title with 3 points.

Jim Hollingsworth was Organizer and Chief TD, assisted by Dale Chaney and Texas Knights editor Jeff French, Tome Crane, and WCM Claudia Munoz.

Hulsey, Mark (2233)
Patton, Tom (2060) [D34]
Jerry Spann Memorial 2018 (5.1), 15.07.2018
[Notes by Tom Patton]

I have known NM Mark Hulsey for a long time. Our first encounter was in 1980 at an ACUI Regional tourney in which I held a difficult 63 move draw. Our next encounter was 24 years later when Mark crushed me in 35 at the 2004 NAO. I was thrilled to get to play him with black in Round 5 of the Jerry Spann Memorial. These notes focus primarily on my thoughts during play. The defense for White on move 25 was pointed out to me by SmallFish running on an iPhone 5s.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c5

The Tarrasch Defense! This line is an old friend that I played almost exclusively from late 1982 to 1998. I had decided to bring this back into my repertoire. Since my opponents in rounds 1 and 3 had let me play it I felt like I had a running start fielding it against Mark in this game.

4.cxd5 exd5 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.g3 Be7 7.Bg2 Nf6 8.0-0 0-0

This tabiya is the launching pad for several main lines. The white formation was popularized by the great Rubinstein. Mark chooses the main line branch popularized by Reti. He immediately isolates the Black d-pawn and plays to control d4 and c5 Back in the 80s a popular Black response was to gambit the c5 pawn and take space, but that is deemed unsound now. I chose to stay within the main line.

9.dxc5 Bxc5 10.Na4 Be7 11.Be3 Bg4 12.Rc1 Qd7

Both Mark and I had been moving quickly up to this point. I took a brief think before playing Qd7. I had reached the end of my preparation. I have always been partial to backing up pins in this manner. If Mark advanced his knight to c5 I was comfortable with Bxc5 in response. I felt Blacks development, space and open files compensate. Aagard & Ntirlis recommend Instead 12... Re8 and if 13. Nc5 Qb6 14. Na4 Qb5. To me their queen maneuver is a bit outre, and I did not recall it during the game. 13.Bc5

I felt this lacked force. The bishop has little to do there but lose time trading itself for another piece. I was happy to develop around it. *(13.Nc5, Bxc5 14.Bxc5, Rfe8 15. Re1, Bh3 16.Bh1, Ne4 = is the main database line-TB)*

13...Rfe8 14.Bxe7

(14.Re1, Ne4 14. Bxe7, Rxe7 15.Nd4 with a slight edge for white. Yermolinsky-Bennett 1995-TB)

14...Qxe7 15.h3 Bh5 16.e3 Rad8 17.Qb3 Ne4

Mark could not occupy c5 while his e-pawn hung. However his pawn advances weakened his kingside. A better approach to respond to Blacks e-file pressure was Rfe1. But Mark desired a more aggressive employment of his pieces. Blacks moves have been natural.

18.g4 Bg6 19.Rfd1

I took some time here to think through my options. I felt the game was turning in my favor. Over the last five moves Mark has tried to drive back the annoying Black bishop, neutralize the e-file pressure while posting every piece in the most aggressive position possible to tear Blacks position apart. But sacrificial attacks on f2 and e3 are thematic in this structure. All of Blacks pieces are beautifully posted.

Better was 19. Rcd1 keeping a rook home to guard f2. After Whites last I could see that White had no threat. If White had the move then 20. Rxd5 Rxd5 21. Qxd5 Nxf2! 22. Kxf2 Qxe3+ but how to improve Blacks position further? I liked the idea of tagging the White 'hook' on g4 but if White responds 20. gh5 that draws the bishop to h5 where it can be hit by a white major piece capturing on d5. Still, a bishop on h5 can always exchange itself for the knight on f3. I decided to press.

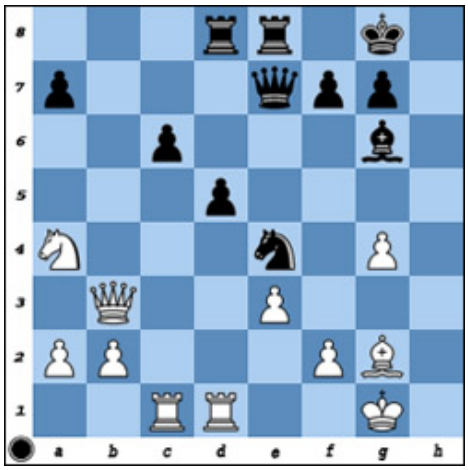
19...h5! 20.Nd4

I was surprised by this and took my time here. I thought White could be contemplating Rxc6 followed by Nxc6 winning a pawn. I was dismayed as well that if 21. Rxc6 gh4? 22. Rxg6 seemed strong. I had to consider if I even had time to play 20. ... hg4. However, after 20. ... hg4 21. Rxc6 bc 22. Nxc6 Qf6 tagging c6 and f2 seemed adequate. So if the move has no threat then it is one more piece departing the kingside.

20...hxg4 21.Nxc6

[21.Rxc6 bxc6 22.Nxc6 Qf6 23.Bxe4 Bxe4 24.Nxd8 Qf3 etc.]

21...bxc6 22.hxg4



22... Rb8?!

I was pleased with this pre-planned follow-up move during the game but it throws away much of Black's advantage. White has a defense! Better was 22. ... Qh4! (pointed out by SmallFish) Then if 23. Qc2, Nf6! 24. Qe2, Nxg4 25. Rd4 Be4! with a winning attack.

23.Qc2 Nf6 24.Qxc6 Nxg4

White could fend off the direct threats now with 25. Qc7! Qh4 26. Qf4.

25.Rd4 Nxf2! 26.Re1 Nd3 27.Re2 Bh5

The exchange falls and the attack is unstoppable. White is busted.

28.Rxd3 Bxe2 29.Ra3 Rbc8 30.Qxd5 Rc1+ 31.Kf2

I had planned 31. ... Qh4+ 32. Kxe2 Re1+? 33. Kd2 Rd8+ but noticed at this point 33. Qxd8! I began trying to recalculate the line to make it work with an earlier 31. Rd8 inserted but Qd5-e4 seemed to hold. I considered 31. ... Qh4! 32. Kxe2 Qe8+?! simply missing the killing 32. ... Rd8! At this point I checked the time. Mark had about 30 minutes left while I had 19. I decided to quit trying to calculate mate and just make material tell. His unsafe king would let me drive the play.

31...Bc4 32.Qh5 Qf6+ 33.Kg3 Qd6+ 34.Kf2 Qd2+ 35.Kg3 Rxe3+ 36.Rxe3 Qxe3+ 37.Qf3 Qxf3+ 38.Bxf3 Bxa2

Cashing in is complete. Now it is all conversion. I have enough pawns to win so I will SAV the exchange back to break the resistance.

39.Be4 Rc4 40.Nc3 Rxe4 41.Nxe4 Bd5 42.Nc3 Bc6 43.b4 a6

The knight is restrained and the White king is too far away to threaten anything. Still, if the knight could be sacrificed for both g and f pawns the ending would be drawn. Black must activate his king in conjunction with a deliberate advance of the kingside pawns to prevent counterplay.

44.Kf4 Kf8 45.Ke5 Ke7 46.Ne2 g6 47.Nd4 f6+ 48.Kf4 Kd6 49.Nb3 Kd5 50.Na5 Bd7 51.Nb7 g5+ 52.Ke3 f5

Black has advanced his pawns without allowing a shred of counterplay. Further advance will break the ability to resist

53.Nc5 Bc8 54.Na4 f4+ 55.Kd3 Bf5+ 56.Kc3 g4 57.Nb6+ Ke4 58.Nc4 Be6 0-1

Now the king breaks through to e3 and the pawns queen. Mark resigned. My thanks and gratitude to the organizers for a great event!

From the OCA Oklahoma Open
Phillips, David (2012)
Zilajeva, Veronika (2030)
OCA Oklahoma Open Championship (4) French
[Notes by V. Zilajeva]
1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nd2 Nf6 French Defense, Tarrasch Variation.
4. e5 Nfd7 5. Bd3 c5 6. c3 Nc6 7. Ngf3 Qb6 8. O-O cxd4 9. cxd4 Nxd4

Here I knew I would gain a pawn, but it would result in attack from his side and restriction of my pieces. I don't particularly mind giving him space advantage so I went for the line

10. Nxd4 Qxd4 11. Nf3 Qb6 12. Qa4 Qb4

The only move that would prevent me from getting in trouble early on.-

13. Qc2 h6

Here the best move is Qc5, but for some reason I thought that he would play Qa5 offering a draw very early in the game. Instead I decided to prevent his bishop from attacking the h7 pawn later in the game.

14. Bd2 Qb6 15. Rac1 Be7

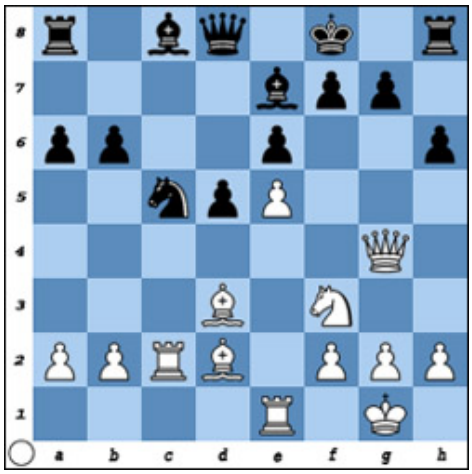
Here, I started to feel a little 'spaceless'. So far nothing life threatening, so I was happy.

16. Qa4 a6

The correct move is Qd8 and trying to get the king to f8. Once I played a6 I became much worse.

17. Rc2 Qd8 18. Qg4 Kf8

He was not supposed to move his queen on the other side of the board, he was supposed to keep the pressure on my queen's side.
19. Rfc1 b6 20. Re1 Nc5



Once he undoubled his rooks it became easier for me to breathe. My knight gained a more favorable position which he could've prevented by playing b4. I am even slightly better in this position. I should have played Bd7, but instead I misplaced my bishop, equalizing the position.
21. Bf1 Bb7 22. Nd4 Qd7 23. Re3 g6 24. h4 h5 25. Qf4 Kg7
I probably should've played Kg8 and Rh7 defending f7 and h6 squared with one piece. Instead I played too quickly and misplaced my king, which later cost me the slight advantage that I could have had.
26. Rf3 Bd8 27. Be3 Rc8 28. Rh3 Qe7
I was trying to prevent him from playing b4. I am pretty positive that he is able to play it, but I didn't have a way to prevent it so I had to make a move that would add at least a little bit of pressure on to the a4 pawn.
29. Nf3 Ne4 30. Rxc8 Bxc8
Once I exchange the rooks it's back to 0.00 dead draw.
31. Bd3 Bb7 32. Bd4 Qd7
Playing Qb4 probably was more active, but I didn't want to move away my queen away too far from the king, so I decided to play more conserved.
33. b3
Here he offered a draw and since neither of us had any advantage, agreed to it.
½ - ½

Dalthorp, Matt (2045)
Carlson, Martin (1700) [A48]
OCA Oklahoma Open Championship, 07.01.2018
[Notes by Matt Dalthorp and Martin Carlson]

> *"This was absolutely the most insane and interesting game that I've ever played, and one of the craziest games I've ever seen, period!" —*

MC: I felt confident going into this game. I had made it through Saturday unbeaten against players rated no lower than 1965, and was now facing Matt, my sparring partner that I had beaten and drawn quite frequently in recent days, although he still has quite a hefty plus score against me overall. I thought he might deviate from his usual 1.e4, but I was expecting an English since I've seen him play that. Instead, he played an opening he had trotted out versus Naren Pullela in rd 2.

1.Nf3 d5 2.b3 [MD: Given that Martin is a frequent sparring partner, I figured I might as well dodge his prep.]
2...Nf6
MC: 2...Bg4!?
3.Bb2 g6 4.d4 Bg7 5.Nbd2 0–0 6.g3 Nbd7 7.Bg2 b6 8.c4 Bb7 9.0–0 Rc8 10.Ne1!?

MD: Slow, but figuring that the knight is better placed on d3, where it controls a lot of squares and defends the dark squares bishop. I didn't want to maintain the symmetry with something like Rc1.

10...c5 11.Nd3 Ba8 [MD: Breaking the pin.] 12.e3 Re8 13.Ne5 [MD: Trying to grab some space.] 13...Nxe5

MC: Had I anticipated Matt's idea of pushing e6, I would have refrained from chopping here. I thought that even though he would have more space, his pawn structure would be brittle and susceptible to breaks like ...g5, ...f6, etc. I did also see that an immediate e6 wasn't possible due to the bishop hanging on b2, but I didn't see what Matt had in store in a few moves.
14.dxe5 Nd7 15.f4

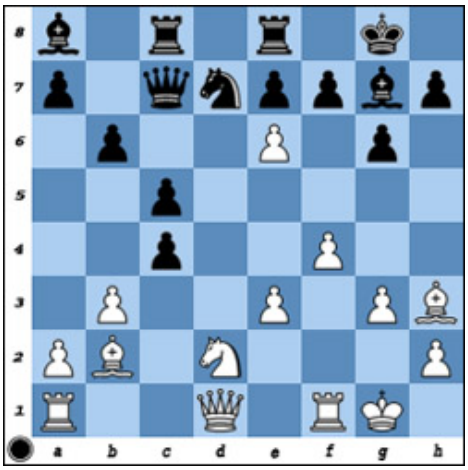
MD: 15.cxd5 was my original idea, but 15...Nxe5 16.e4 Nf3+! 17.Bxf3 Bxb2 18.Rb1 Bg7 Black's bishop pair is pretty strong, even despite the White center. With e6 and f5 coming, even the center will break down, and once the position opens up, Black should be much better. MC: Another reason I went for Nxe5 on move 13.

15...dxc4

MD: Here I really wanted to get e6 in, but I also wanted to keep the light bishop. Naturally...
16.Bh3!?
MC:,,,this was the move I completely overlooked.
16...Qc7

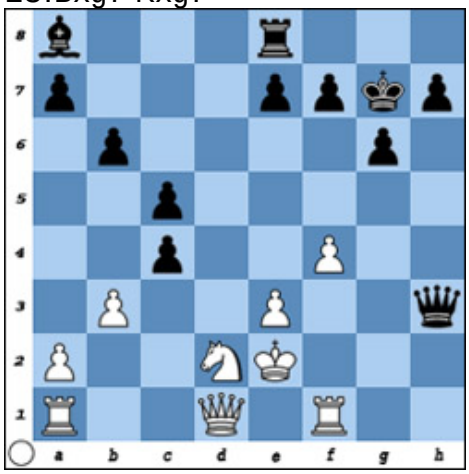
MD: My thinking was that if he takes the pawn with 16...cxb3 then 17.e6 fxe6 18.Bxe6+ Kf8 19.Bxg7+ Kxg7 20.Qxb3 when Black's kingside feels so exposed that White has to have a good attack here, though there's nothing concrete.

MC: Of course, 16...e6 is not an option to block the diagonal, as the dark squares become critically weak. 17.Nxc4 Bf8 18.Nd6 Bxd6 19.exd6 I absolutely hated the prospect of trying to defend this strategically lost position. Since I also saw that cxb3 would lead to difficulties, I went with Qc7 with the idea of causing White some serious problems.
17.e6



17...Qc6!!
MD: Black can bail out with 17...fxe6 18.Bxe6+ Kf8 19.Bxg7+ Kxg7 20.Bxc4 Qc6

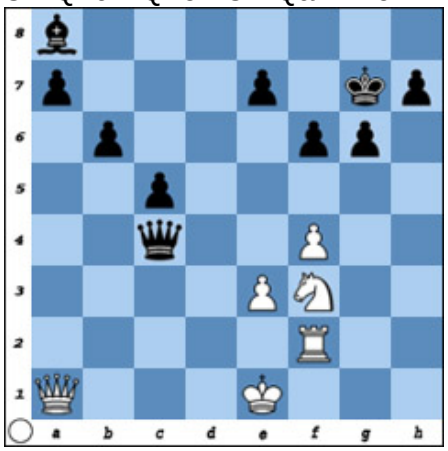
21.Nf3 Both kingsides are tender.
MC: I did consider fxe6, but having played Matt before, I knew that he excels at converting these kinds of positions, so I felt that if I were going to lose, I would at least unleash my inner Tal and make him earn the win the hard way. Turns out, it was completely sound, much to my surprise!
18.exd7
MD: And into the maelstrom we go. Martin has turned the tables on my little pawn sac. 18...Qh1+ 19.Kf2 Qxh2+ 20.Ke1 Qxg3+ 21.Ke2 [MD: 21.Rf2 is possible, but I was leery about leaving the e- and f-pawns just hanging out there loose.] 21...Qxh3 22.dxe8Q+ Rxe8 23.Bxg7 Kxg7



MD: I had calculated about this far after 16.Bh3 and figured that with all my pieces huddled around my king I'd be able to stabilize quickly and capitalize on the extra rook.
MC: I felt pretty good here. I had four pawns for the rook, so I felt that if I could get to a queenless endgame, I might be able to make something out of those pawns, especially if they were all on the kingside.
24.Rf2
MD: 24.Nxc4 was my original idea, but 24...Qg2+ 25.Ke1 Qg3+ 26.Rf2 Qg1+ 27.Ke2 Qg4+ with a perpetual, since the king can never step to the d-file.
24...Rd8 25.Qf1 Qf5?!
MD: 25...Qd7 scared me the most, since it forces White to react immediately to the threat on the knight. (MC: Yes, Qd7 was absolutely better. During the game, I thought that f5 would be a more flexible square, allowing me to jump back to the kingside with annoying checks, but the immediate threat to the knight makes Qd7 the obvious choice.) 26.Ke1 c3 27.Nc4 b5 *(27...f6* is actually pretty strong, defending e5 from the knight.*)*
26.bxc4
MD: Now that the Black c-pawn isn't liable to turn into an extra attacker, I felt like I should be able to untangle a little bit.
26...Qd3+ 27.Ke1 Qc3 28.Rd1

28...Qc2?
MC: At this point, I had burned so much time working through the maw of variations up to here, so I made a "hope" move here as time pressure started to creep up. I had fantasies of slapping down Bf3 moves, but they don't work under the unblinking eye of the engine.
MD: This feels like it loses the thread. 28...Be4 puts White in a bind. There's not an obvious way to proceed for either side, but Black can't be doing too badly here.

29.Qe2 Qxa2 30.Nf3 Rxd1+
[MD: 30...Qxe2+ 31.Kxe2 Rxd1 32.Kxd1 Bxf3+ 33.Rxf3 Despite Black's four extra pawns, I was pretty confident the rook could clean up matters easily since White's pawn distribution keeps everything under control. Within two moves the rook will be hitting the defenseless queenside pawns, and there's no way for Black to generate anything on the kingside against White's blockade, at least, not without expending so much time that the rook can easily get involved in the defense.
31.Qxd1 Qxc4 32.Qa1+ f6



33.Nd2
MD: 33.Qxa7 sidelines the queen too much. 33...Qc1+ 34.Ke2 Qc4+ 35.Kd2 Qb4+ 36.Kd1 Qb3+ 37.Ke2 Qc4+ with a perpetual.

33...Qd3??

MC: The losing blunder, after which everything falls apart for Black. [33...Qe6 This is the last chance for Black. 34.Qxa7 Bc6 35.Qxb6?? *(35.e4* is much better.*)* 35...Qxe3+ Perpetual check is unavoidable.

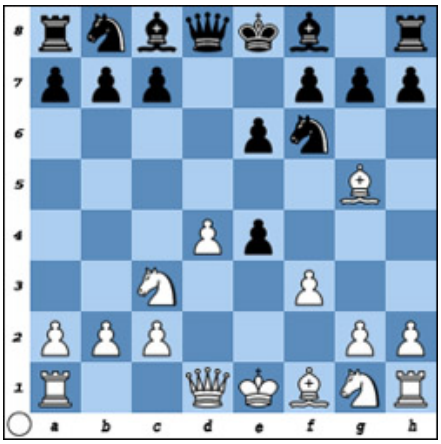
34.Qxa7 [MD: Now White has untangled and is starting to turn the initiative.]
34...Qd8 [MC: Here, I knew I was doomed.]

MD: 34...Qxe3+ 35.Re2 Qg3+ 36.Kd1 Qg1+ 37.Kc2 Black is out of checks and White's heavies will penetrate immediately.

35.Nc4 b5 36.Rd2 Qe8 37.Nd6 Qf8 38.Nxb5 Bc6 39.Qxc5 Bf3 40.Kf2 Bg4 41.e4
MD: Slow, but White is winning regardless. There will be an e6 hole for the knight.
41...Qf7 42.f5 gxf5 43.exf5 h5 44.Nd4 Kh6 45.Ne6
MD: White intends Re7, breaking through and at least forcing a winning queen trade.
MC: Matt had gotten up from his chair, so I just called to him to tell him I resigned. This was absolutely the most insane and interesting game that I've ever played, and one of the craziest games I've ever seen, period! I'm not even bummed that I lost. I set Matt some tough problems, and he navigated the minefield almost flawlessly. Matt said something after the game that I thought summed it up perfectly: "The only shame about the game would have been if it hadn't been played." Well said!]
1–0

From 2018 Kansas Open

Kyle Camarda (1913)
Eddison Chen (1934)
Kansas Open 2018, (4) French Defense, Burn [Kyle Camarda]
1.e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Bg5 de4 5. f3?!
An interesting gambit, in the style of the Blackmar-Diemer. Black annotated the move with a question mark immediately. Perhaps one should wait until the end of the game to do this.



5...ef3?
Most French books that cover this line suggest that it is best to decline the gambit.
6. Nxf3 Be7 7. Bd3 Nbd7 8. O-O O-O 9. Qe2 h6?
Black needs to develop, or challenge White's center, not move pawns in front of his king.
10. Bh4 c6?
Making the "French bishop" even weaker, and not at all challenging White.
11. Rad1 Nd5 12. Bxe7 Qxe7 13. Ne5!
A thematic move from the Blackmar-Diemer gambit. White strives to keep the Black queenside pieces out of play, and also prevents ...f6, which would possibly free Black's pieces.
13...Qg5?
Black will lose more time moving the queen around, while White develops his attack. Placing the lady in front of the kingside is just asking for rook lifts.
14. Rf3 N7f6 15. Rdf1 Qh4?!
Black seems to have overlooked White's next move, and thinks that his threat on the d-pawn is worth yet another queen move.
16. Ne4 Bd7??
This allows two simple wins: 17. Nxf6 Nxf6 18. Rxf6 gf6 19. Nxd7, or 17. c4 Nxe4 (17...Nb4? 18. Rh3 wins the queen) 18. Bxe4 winning a piece.
17. Rh3?
This wins also, but isn't as clean. The Black

queen is trapped, but Black can escape via counterattack.
17…Nf4 18. Rxf4 Qxf4 19. Rf3 Qc1+ 20. Rf1 Qxb2
Black is hoping that he can get in Qxd4+, but White can prevent this with tempo.
21. Nxf6+ gf6 22. Qg4+
Covering d4. White's attack is now decisive.
22…Kh8 23. Qf4 f5 24. Qxh6+ Kg8 25. Qg5+ Kh8 26. Rf4?
Again, this works, but is inefficient. 26. Qf6+ Kg8 27. Ng4 is forced mate. Also better was 26. Rf3, when Black will have to sacrifice his queen to a bishop on c1 in order to forestall mate for a few moves.
26…Qc1+ 27. Bf1 Qxf4 28. Qxf4 Be8 29. Qh6+ Kg8 30. Bd3
Black is helpless against the threat of Qf6, Ng4 and mating, so he resigned. 1-0

Brooks, IM Michael (2375)
McCartney, Patrick (2050) [C00]
2018 Kansas Open (2.1), 14.07.2018 *[TB]*
1.e4 e6 2.d3 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.g3 c5 5.Bg2 Nc6 6.Ngf3 Be7 7.0-0 0-0 8.Re1 b5 9.e5

Attacking players like Brooks, and like Bobby Fischer, often play this line as white. It starts out looking slow, but this thrust clears the way for a big piece attack against black's king after white maneuvers his d2 knight to the kingside as in this game. It comes at a big cost though -- black gets a big pawn roller going that decimates white's queenside. It's a matter of who can create threats first...

9...Nd7 10.h4 a5 11.Nf1 Ba6 12.N1h2 b4 13.Bf4 a4 14.Ng4!?

Most masters here have played 14.a3 to slow black down a little on the queenside, winning some time for attack on the kingside. A typical example is this game: 14...c4 15.d4 c3 16.bxc3 bxc3 17.Ng5 Nb6 18.Qh5 Bxg5 19.Bxg5 Qe8 20.Bf6 Nxd4 21.Ng4 Nf5 22.Qg5 Kh8 23.Bxg7+ Nxg7 24.Nf6 Qd8 25.Qh6 Qxf6 26.Qxf6 Rae8 27.g4 Nd7 28.Qf4 Bc4 29.h5 Rc8 30.Rab1 f5 31.exf6 1-0 Kaidanov (2625)-Nijboer (2525) 1998

14...a3
Black takes up the challenge and tries to exploit white's last move by getting some initiative on the queenside. Will it be enough?
15.bxa3 bxa3 16.c3 Bb5 17.Rb1 Ba4 18.Qd2 Rb8?
[Black was doing a great job keeping white busy on the queenside but here falls into a nice trap. Better was 18...Qa5 with the idea of ...Rfb8 and about equal chances.]
19.Rxb8 Qxb8

20.Nf6+! Ouch. 20...Bxf6 21.exf6 Bxb8 is threatened so the pawn is immune. 21...Qb2 [21...e5 22.fxg7+-] 22.fxg7 Rc8 23.Bd6! Qxd2 24.Nxd2 Bc2 25.Bf1 d4 Black does a good job of searching for counterplay, but Brooks' careful defense holds it all. 26.Rc1 dxc3 27.Nf3 Nb4 28.Ne1 Nxa2 29.Rxc2 Nb4 30.Rxc3 Ra8 31.Rc1 a2 32.Ra1 Ra3 33.d4 Rb3 34.dxc5 Rb1 35.Nc2 Kxg7 36.c6 Rxa1 37.Nxa1 Nxc6 38.Bb5 Ndb8 39.Ba4 Kf6 40.f4 Kf5 41.Bc2+ Kg4 42.Kg2 Na6 43.Bd1+ Kf5 44.g4+ Kg6 45.h5+ Kg7 46.Ba4 Nab4 47.Kf2 Kf6 48.Kg3 e5 49.fxe5+ Kg5 50.Nb3 Kh6 51.Bf8+ If Kg5 then white has Nc5 followed by mate on e4. 1-0

David Sayler (1727)
Liudmila Mokriak (2072) [D61]
2018 Kansas Open (2), 14.07.2018
[Laurence Coker]
D61: Queen's Gambit Declined: Classical: Qc2 1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 Be7 5.Bg5 0-0 6.e3 Nbd7 7.Qc2 Re8 8.Rd1 c6 9.Bd3 dxc4 10.Bxc4 Nd5 11.Bxe7 Qxe7 12.0-0 last book move 12...h6 13.a3 N7b6 14.Bd3 Bd7 15.b4 Rec8 16.Rfe1 a5 17.e4 axb4 18.exd5

bxc3 19.dxe6 Bxe6 20.Qxc3 Qxa3 21.Qc2? losing move 21...Bb3 22.Ra1 Bxc2 23.Rxa3 Rxa3 24.Bxc2 Rca8 0-1

From the Jerry Spann Memorial

Veal, Joe Dean (1976)
Brown, Jeremy (1556) [A11]
Jerry Spann Memorial 2018 (1.9), 14.07.2018
[TB]
1.c4 c6 2.Nf3 d5 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 Bg4 5.Ne5 Bh5 6.Qb3 Qb6 7.cxd5 Qxb3 8.axb3 cxd5 9.Nc3 e6 10.Nb5 Na6 11.Rxa6 bxa6 12.Nc7+ Kd8 13.Nxa8 Bd6!

[13...Kc8 14.e4! Kb7 15.g4!; 13...Kc8 14.e4 Nxe4 15.g4 f6 16.gxh5 fxe5 17.Bxe4 dxe4 would have been hilarious. ;-)]

14.d4 Bxe5? [14...Ke7 15.Bf4 Rxa8≤]

15.dxe5 Nd7 16.Be3+ Kc8 17.Bxa7 Kb7 18.Bd4 Kxa8 19.e4 dxe4 20.Bxe4+ Kb8 21.Kd2 Bg6 22.Ke3

This ending is interesting. White has an extra pawn but it is doubled. White also has the two Bs. Which advantage is more important? I'd say the latter. So perhaps it is a mistake to allow the trade of light bishops here, which will leave white with a "bad" dark bishop against the knight. In that case, better was: 22.Bc6 Kc7 23.Rc1+

22...Bxe4 23.Kxe4 Kb7 24.Rc1 Rc8 25.Rc3 [White thus keeps the rooks on the board as black doesn't want to undouble white's pawns. However, I think 25.Rc4 would have been better, sometimes with the threat of Rb4+.

The alternative is to trade rooks with 25.Rxc8 Kxc8 But that definitely looks difficult to win for white.]

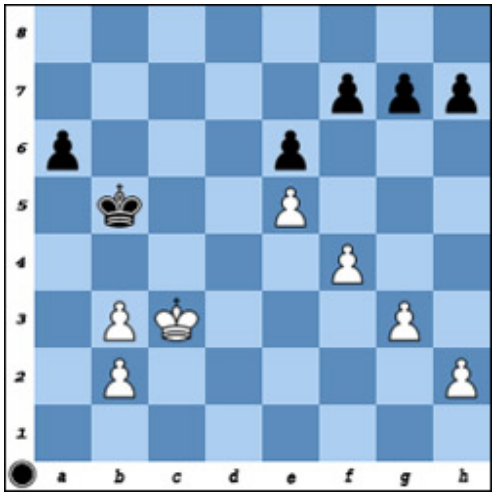
25...Rc6 26.f4 Nb6!

I think this is a good move by Jeremy. It gives white a tough choice between no fewer than FOUR different endings here -- 1) keep the same material and slog on but allowing black's N to reach d5 outpost, 2) Trade rooks for Bad B vs good N ending, 3) trade minor pieces for a rook ending, and 4) trade everything to reach a tricky K+P ending! Joe chooses option 4, but later regretted it!

27.Rxc6

I tell students to avoid K+P endings unless necessary, as they are difficult, especially in time trouble. I would suggest here keeping all the pieces on -- for now at least -- and try 27.f5!? aiming to either open up the scope of white's B or undermine the pawn (e6) that supports black's N outpost on d5. Example play: 27...Nd5 *(27...exf5+ 28.Kxf5 Nd5 29.Rf3!?±)* 28.Rc4 Nb6 *(28...Ne7 29.f6 gxf6 30.Rb4+ Kc7 31.exf6 Nd5 32.Be5+±)* 29.fxe6 fxe6 30.Rc3 Nd5 31.Rf3 and here with the threat of penetration to f7 I think white has good chances although black will play ...Rc2 and put up a continuing fight.

27...Kxc6 28.Bxb6 Kxb6 29.Kd4 Kb5 30.Kc3



30...f6?

After the game both Joe and I thought black missed a chance to draw here with 30...a5, controlling the b4 square. But white can keep the advantage, only with the aid of a pawn sacrifice: 31.b4! axb4+ 32.Kd4! *(32.Kb3? g6 33.h3 h6=* and apparently white must be the first to retreat.*)* 32...Ka4 *(*I think if black tries tempo pawn moves on the kingside instead he will lose that battle, for example: *32...h6 33.g4 g6 34.h4 h5 35.gxh5 gxh5 36.b3+- Kb6 37.Kc4 Ka5 38.Kc5+-;* Or *32...f6 33.exf6 gxf6 34.b3+-)* 33.Kc4 Ka5 34.g4 h6 35.b3+-

So I was going to tell Joe he was still winning but first I thought to check it with Stockfish, which found a draw for black with: 30...g5!! 31.fxg5 *(31.b4* now allows black to deaden

white's kingside with *31...g4! 32.Kb3 Kc6! 33.Kc4 Kb6 34.b5 a5!=)* 31...Kc5 32.b4+ Kd5 33.b5!? *(33.Kd3 Kxe5 34.Kc4 Ke4 35.b5 axb5+ 36.Kxb5 e5 37.Kc5 Kf3 38.b4 e4 39.b5 e3 40.b6 e2 41.b7 e1Q 42.b8Q=)* 33...axb5 34.Kb4 Kxe5 35.Kxb5 Kd4 36.b4 e5 37.Kc6 e4 38.b5 e3 39.b6 e2 40.b7 e1Q 41.b8Q Qc1+ 42.Kd7 Qxg5 with a probable draw in this queen ending.

This is why you should avoid K+P endings unless you are sure what is going on there!]

31.b4 fxe5 32.fxe5
Now black will run out of tempos and have to retreat, allowing white a breakthrough at some point with b4-b5.
32...h6 33.Kb3 g6 34.h3 g5 35.g4 Kc6 36.Ka4 Kb7 37.Ka5 Ka7 38.b5 axb5 39.Kxb5 1-0

Hulsey, Mark (2233)
Graham, Shaun (1969) [B06]
Jerry Spann Memorial 2018 14.07.2018
[TB]
1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nf3 d6 4.Nc3 a6 5.Bc4 e6 6.Be3 b5 7.Bb3 Bb7 8.a3 Nd7 9.Qd2 Ndf6 10.d5 e5
10... exd5 11. exd5 Ne7 white would have only a slight advantage, but he could sac a pawn with 12. Bh6, Bxh6 13. Qxh6 Nexd5.

11.0-0 Ng4 12.Bg5! f6 13.Bh4 Ne7
Big edge for white.
14.Qe2

14. h3! h5!? (14...Nh6 15. Bxf6) 15. Bg3, Nh6 16. a4 ±

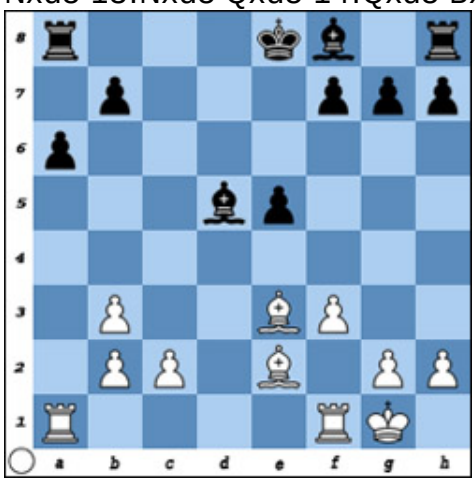
Qd7 15.Ne1 0-0 16.f3 Nh6 17.a4 g5 18.Bf2 b4 19.Nd1 a5 20.g4 Ng6 21.Ng2 Nf4 22.Nxf4 exf4= 23.Bc4 Nf7 24.Bb5 c6 25.dxc6 Bxc6 26.c4 Rfe8 27.Bd4 d5?

27. ...Bxb5 28. axb5 f5! 29. Bxg7 Kxg7 30.gxf5, Qxf5 with chances for both sides, but probably black is preferable.

28.cxd5 Bxb5 29.Qxb5 Qe7 30.Nf2± Ne5 31.Kg2 Ng6 32.Qd3 Nh4+ 33.Kh1 Bf8 34.Rac1 Rec8 35.Qe2 Bg7 36.Nd3 Bf8 37.b3 h5 38.gxh5 Qf7 39.Nf2 f5 40.Nh3 Bh6ì 41.Rxc8+ Rxc8 42.Qa6 Qf8 43.Qe6+ Kh7 44.Rg1 Re8 45.Qd7+ Re7 46.Qd6 Qf7

47.Rxg5 Nxf3 48.Rg6 Bf8 49.Qxf4 Rxe4 50.Qxf3 Re1+ 51.Kg2 Re2+ 52.Kf1 Bh6 53.Kxe2 Qe7+ 54.Kd3 Qh4 55.d6 f4 56.Qb7+ 1-0

Turin, Joshua (2021)
Devagharan, Devina (2080) [B92]
Jerry Spann Memorial 2018 (2.3), 14.07.2018
[TB]
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be2 Nbd7 7.Be3 Nc5 8.f3 e5 9.Nb3 Nxb3 10.axb3 Be6 11.0-0 d5 12.exd5 Nxd5 13.Nxd5 Qxd5 14.Qxd5 Bxd5



15.Bb5+

[15.Ra5!± 0-0-0 16.Rd1 Bc6 17.Rxd8+ Kxd8 18.Rxe5 Bd6 19.Rh5±]

15...Ke7 16.Rfd1 Be6 17.Bc4 Rc8 18.Bxe6 Kxe6 19.c3= Be7 20.Rd2 Rhd8 21.Rad1 f5 22.Kf1 Rxd2 23.Rxd2 b5 24.Ke2 Bf6 25.Rd1 Rc6 26.h3 h5 27.Rd3 g6 28.Rd1 ½ - ½

MORE GAMES FROM THE JERRY SPANN MEMORIAL NEXT MONTH!

Patel, Advait (2461)
Li, Riufeng (2583) [B75]
US Junior Championship (9), 21.07.2018
[TB]

Trailing by a full point in this last-round game, Patel needed a win against the Dallas prodigy Riufeng Li. 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 a6 8.Qd2 Nbd7 9.Be2 Qc7 10.g4 b5 11.g5 b4 12.Nd1

[12.gxf6 bxc3 13.Qxc3 Qxc3+ 14.bxc3 Bxf6≥]

12...Nh5 13.Qxb4

[Okie correspondence chess IM Cairan O'Hare once played here in an ICCF game against P. Salati: 13.c3 a5 14.Rc1 Qb7 15.cxb4 axb4 16.Rc4 b3± (1-0 in 49 moves).]

13...Rb8 14.Qd2 Nc5

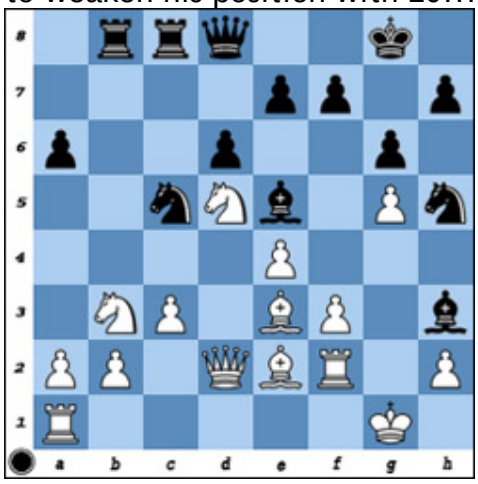
Black has general compensation for the pawn, visually, but white looks solid and black must strike fast if he is going to keep white from consolidating the material.

15.0-0 0-0 16.Nb3 Bh3 17.Rf2 Be5

[Black should play 17...Na4 to prevent white's next move.]

18.Nc3 Rfc8 19.Nd5 Qd8 20.c3!?

[The computer likes 20.Rd1 threatening Nxc5 winning material, which seems to force black to weaken his position with 20...e6 21.Nc3±]



20...Rxb3!?

A desperate sacrifice, leading to unclear complications, but Advait shows his class here, keeping a cool head.

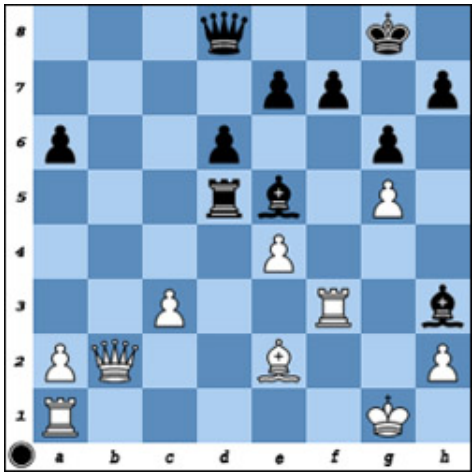
21.Bxc5!?

[21.axb3 Nxb3 22.Qd1 Nxa1 23.Qxa1 e6=; 21.axb3 Nxb3 22.Qd1 Nxa1 23.f4!?≤]

21...Rxb2 22.Qxb2 Rxc5

The desperado combination has left white up the exchange, but c3 is very weak and if the N leaves protection of it black will win back the exchange. This is a recurring theme in the next several moves.

23.f4 Nxf4 24.Rxf4! Rxd5! 25.Rf3



25...Qc8?

[Black should have returned the R to put pressure again on c3 with 25...Rc5 which, now that the knight has gone, will threaten ...Bxc3. If then 26.Rxh3 Qc8 is a double attack on c3 and h3 that wins back the exchange for black, and leaves him with two pawns and an attack for a piece after something like 27.Kg2 Bxc3 28.Rxc3 Rxc3 29.Qd2 Rc2 etc. The computers still like white there though. Instead Riufeng Li tries a king hunt that Advait patiently refutes by walking his king to the queenside. Li makes several clever attempts at traps and keeps the initiative going for a long while, but it does not seem enough against Patel!]

26.exd5 Qg4+ 27.Rg3

[27.Kf2 Qg2+ 28.Ke3 Qxg5+ 29.Kd3 Bf5+ 30.Kc4 also seems to win.]

27...Qh4 28.Kf2! Bf5 29.Kg2 Bxg3 30.hxg3 Qh3+ 31.Kf2 Qh2+ 32.Kf3 h5 33.gxh6 Calmly not allowing the pawn to join the attack. 33...Qh5+ 34.Ke3 Qxh6+ 35.Kd4 Qg7+ 36.Kc4 Qe5 It is still not easy for white. There are several perpetual check lines in the position if he is not careful. 37.Qd2 Be4 38.Rd1 e6 39.Kb4 Bxd5 40.Bxa6 Bf3 41.Qxd6 Qe4+ 42.Qd4 Qc2 43.Rd2 Qb1+ 44.Ka5 1-0

More Patel games next issue...

Aug 18 2018 WICHITA CC AUGUST SWISS Wichita KS

4-SS, G/45;d5. Evergreen Library (Parkview A Room), 2601 N Arkansas, Wichita KS 67204. REG: 10-10:30. EF: Adv entry $20, Scholastic $15, all $5 more at door. INFO: wichitachessclub@gmail.com, Thomas Tran.

Aug 25 2018 TULSA QUADS 2 Tulsa OK

4-RR grouped by rating (3 total games with players near your own rating in a round-robin.) G/45;+15. (Dual rated). Harvard Avenue Baptist Church, 3235 E. 17th St. (17th & Harvard), Tulsa, OK. Cash Prizes: $50 to winner in each quad. EF: $15 cash or check at door, or Advance Entry by Paypal: www.paypal.me/Braunlich REG.: 9-9:45 AM.

❖ *Free Refreshments: Including Coffee, Tea, Doughnuts, Cookies. Live Internet Video: In the skittles room we will try show on large-screen TV the Sinquefield Cup GM Tournament from St. Louis (1pm)!* RDS.: 10:00, 12:30, 3:00 LS W. Inquiries: tom.braunlich@cox.net

Sep 15-16 2018 ARKANSAS SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP Little Rock AR

5-SS; G/90;d5; Little Rock Church, 10701 Baseline Road, Little Rock, AR 72209. Open to players 50+ as of 9/15/18. Two sections: Open (1600+), Reserve. EF: $50 by 9/11, $60 at door. Entries to SWLR Chess Club at above address. Online entries: www.swlrchessclub.com REG: 8:00am-8:45am, Sep 15. $$Prizes (b/30): Open 450-200-100. Title to top AR resident. Reserve: 250-125-100. Inquiries: ryland@swlrchessclub.com

Sep 15-16 2018 2018 MISSOURI OPEN Columbia MO

5-SS; G/115;d5; $2500 Guaranteed Prize Fund. Parkade Center, 601 Business Loop 70 W, Columbia, MO 65203. 2-sections: OPEN: Overall Prizes: $400-1st $300-2nd, $200-3rd. Class Prizes: $150-1st in each: Master (2200-2399), X, A, B. RESERVE (U1600): Overall Prizes: $250-1st, $200-2nd, $150-3rd. Class Prizes: $100-1st in each C, D, E, U1000/Unr. Upset Prizes: $50 for highest upset in each section. EF: $50 by 9/8, $60 on site. Special Discounts Available. Reg.: Sat-9-9:45am. Rounds: Sat-10/2:30/7, Sun-9:30/2. Max one 1/2-pt bye if declared by Rd. 2. State Championship plaques to highest finishing Missouri resident in each section. MCA membership req'd, available on site from $5, OSA. Entries/Info: Thomas Rehmeier, 34 Aspen Pointe Dr., St. Peters, MO 63376. JCChess89@yahoo.com, 573-291-0852.

2018 TX Armed Forces and Military Veterans
Sep 29-30 2018 Open Championships Hillsboro TX

4-SS; G/60;d5; All players must have served in the US Military. Other states besides TX welcome. Hill College, 112 Lamar Drive, Hillsboro TX 76645. FREE ENTRY. Send email to armychess@aol.com no later than 19 Sep 2018 which must include your Military Branch and Status, and USCF ID number, City, State and Phone. USCF and TX Chess Assoc memberships required, available at site. Registration at door must show government-issued military ID. More Info, including Eligibility, Prizes, and Side Events: http://seriouschessplayers.com/scp_txafcc_2018.html Inquiries: Major Jim Hollingsworth (U.S. Army, ret). BIZNEZLDR@GMAIL.COM

Two New Books by Gambit Publishing reviewed by IM John Donaldson

Ask Grandmasters for suggestions on how to improve and you are liable to get different advice, but there is one thing they universally agree on — the importance of studying tactics. Richard Teichmann may have overstated things when he said chess is 90 percent tactics, but he was right in emphasizing their importance. No one becomes a strong player without a mastery of this phase of the game. World Champions Tal and Petrosian had very different styles, but they were both first rate tacticians.

Having determined studying tactics is essential for making progress in chess; the next question is how to go about it. There are hundreds of books that offer positions to solve. These "puzzle books" vary tremendously in level of difficulty and how they are organized, but every chess player who is trying to get better should spend at least 30 minutes a day working with one. However, this isn't the place to start.

The place to begin is with a book that explains the various tactical themes (pin, fork, double attack, etc.). While there is no universally agreed upon classification system, there are plenty of excellent books out there to explain the basics depending on one's skill level.

Gambit Publications (www.gambitbooks.com) has several such books in its catalogue. It's most recent entry *Fundamental Chess Tactics* (Gambit 2017, 335 pages, figurine algebraic, paperback, $28.95) by Antonio Gude is aimed at a wider audience than its previous released titles *A Course in Chess Tactics* by Bojkov and V. Georgiev and *How to Calculate Chess Tactics* by Beim, which are for a more advanced audience.

Gude's big book (large oversized pages with a two-column format) is everything the club player (roughly 1600-2200) needs to have a strong foundation in chess tactics. It is systematic and features well-chosen examples backed up by plenty of explanatory prose. As a follow-up there are plenty of exercises to check what the reader has learned, plus detailed solutions - important for a book of this kind. An added bonus is Gude is an entertaining writer, well versed in chess history, who will increase the reader's chess culture in a pleasurable way.

125 Chess Opening Surprises (Gambit 2017, 175 pages, figurine algebraic, paperback, $21.95) by Graham Burgess is an expanded and reworked edition of his earlier *101 Chess Opening Surprises*, which Gambit published in 1998. Like the earlier edition, this book provides practical ideas for amateur players that they can actually use in their own games. Rather than feature the latest novelties in top Grandmaster games (move 35 in the Exchange Grunfeld), the suggestions crop up early, sometimes at move one! For example: meeting the Orangutan/ Sokolsky (1.b4) with either 1…c6 or 1…c5. Both are quite playable and Burgess provides all the non-professional needs to know.

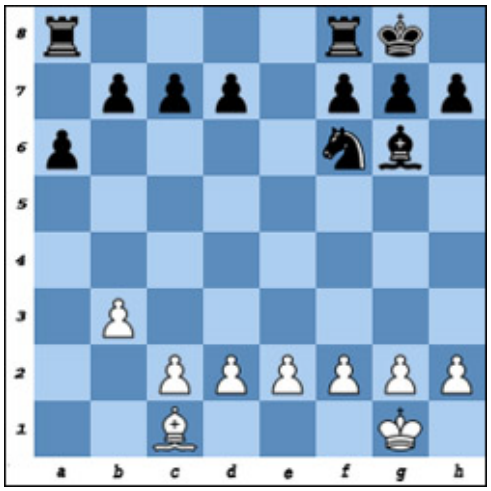
The openings considered in *125 Chess Opening Surprises* run the gamut from main lines to the more obscure, but Burgess always maintains his objectivity. For examples of the less known there are 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 h6 or Nepomniachtchi's funny line he has used successfully in Blitz: 1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 a5!? 4.Ngf3 a4, which receives a brief mention.

125 Chess Opening Surprises is just the book for club-players looking for practical opening ideas that are carefully researched and well-explained.

THE CASE OF THE WAYWARD BISHOP Continued…

SOLUTION:

"The game is afoot Watson! We must examine this position and determine what must have been white's first bishop move!"



"But Holmes, it is impossible. Clearly in this position the white King's bishop never moved at all, since it was captured on its home square, but the Queen's prelate could have only moved to either b2 or a3 before returning to its home square, but there is no way to tell which!" I said.

"Watson you wonderful wag!" he replied. "How many times must I explain … Never trust to general impressions, dear Watson, but concentrate yourself upon details! Beatty wanted us to find the solution, so there will be one; and what one man can invent, another can discover!"

"I guess there are only two possibilities for the first bishop move then, how can we determine which?" I asked.

"I never 'guess'," Holmes retorted. "It is a shocking habit… destructive to the logical faculty."

"Now Watson, let us examine the position more closely: I perceive one very odd thing about the position which clearly is the first clue to the puzzle — the black light squared Bishop is on g6. How did it get there? No black pawn has moved that would have let a bishop from c8 out."

"Quite right, Holmes! It's impossible for the bishop to get there! The position is illegal, that's obvious!" I cried.

"There is nothing more deceptive than the obvious, Watson. Why do you always forget the possibility of promoted pawns old chum? The original black light-square bishop on c8 was captured there on its home square. The bishop on g6 must be a promoted pawn, and since black is missing only one pawn it was his e-pawn that transmogrified into a bishop. Furthermore, the only light-colored square upon which that pawn could have promoted was b1!"

"That is capricious!" I said.

"Life is full of whimsical happenings Watson. But it is the only possibility.

So, we can also determine what had to happen for black's e-pawn to promote on the b1 square. It would have had to make four captures to reach the a-file, move down to a2, and then capture on b1 to promote to the bishop, that's a total of 5 captures," Holmes said.

"Ah but Holmes, why couldn't the pawn have done it in 3 captures, first moving to e5, then making three captures on d4, c3, and b2, and then move to b1 to queen?" I asked.

"Watson, you really must learn to consider the consequences of your suppositions before you utter them! If the pawn had taken that route, it means white's b-pawn must have been on b3 *before* the pawn was promoted — and that means the promoted bishop would have no way out – the route from b1 to g6 would have been blocked. No, the white b-pawn must have been on b2 until after the black pawn promoted to a bishop and moved out to g6, and only then did white move the pawn to b3!"

"But Holmes, again this seems impossible!" I exclaimed. "You said the black pawn had to

make 5 captures to promote on b1 and that white's b-pawn stayed on b2 the whole time. But if that is the case, the white's bishop never moved from its home square of c1 because it had no exit, and that in turn means white's Queen and King's Rook could NOT have gotten out from behind their pawns to be two of the white pieces that black's pawn captured! The only way out for those two pieces would be via the a-file, but white's Bishop on c1 would have been blocking them. So the only pieces black's pawn could have captured on its march to b1 would have been the two white knights and the white Queen's Rook. That's only 3. Therefore the position is illegal!"

"Watson you glorious buffoon! You put the solution within your grasp but always fail to grab it! You are right that if white's Queen's Bishop was there on c1 the whole time until after the pawn moved to b3 that the position would be impossible…

… *But what makes you think that the bishop you see now on c1 must be the very same bishop that started the game on that square?"*

I was gobsmacked!

"Holmes, do you mean it is not the original queen's bishop, that it is a promoted bishop??" I said.

"Indeed old chum. It is the only possibility. For the black pawn to promote on b1 it needed 5 captures, and the only way that could happen is if the queen's bishop was not in the way of letting out white's queen and king's rook. Therefore, that original queen's bishop on c1 must have been captured on its home square by a black piece, letting out enough white pieces for black's pawn to capture, promote to a bishop and move back to g6."

Holmes went on with his explanation: "The bishop you see on c1 now is a promoted pawn — in fact the missing white a-pawn. This pawn could only have promoted on a dark square, with a maximum of three captures to get there, and it is easy to see that the only such square it could have reached is the square b8."

"So, this was the sequence of events Watson: A white knight captured black's c8 bishop, while a black knight captured both white bishops on their original squares c1 and f1. White then moved his a-pawn to a4 or a5 and white slowly moved all his pieces on the back rank out via the a-file, where they were then captured by the black pawn, which then was promoted to a light-square bishop on b1. That new bishop then moved out via a2 to g6 where it sits now, and only then did white play pawn to b3. Then black allowed white's a-pawn to capture once on the b-file, then once on a7 and finally a third time on b8, where it was promoted to a bishop. That bishop then moved back to c1."

Holmes' soliloquy was impressive, but I was still confused. "Amazing Holmes, but where does it get us?"

"Don't you see? We now know the answer to the challenge — *What was White's first Bishop move?* — Both of white's original bishops were captured on their home squares, having never moved. White's first bishop move was with his promoted bishop, from b8 to a7!"

"Brilliant Holmes! *B eight A seven*! That is our answer! But how does that tell us who was the murderer? It is yet another clue! Is it perhaps an anagram? Let's see, the anagrams to that are, ummm…

HEAVING BEETS! …

GNATS BEEHIVE! …

AVENGE BE THIS! …

GENE HIVE STAB!

That's it, someone named *Gene Hive* stabbed him Holmes!!"

"Do not strain yourself Watson," Holmes said calmly. "I think the solution must be more

straightforward than searching through thousands of anagram possibilities….

Watson, I hypothesize that this clue, if pronounced in rapid fashion, will literally cause us to pronounce the final clue to the culprit and his location!"

Holmes started pronouncing the phrase "B eight A seven" with rapid variations of inflexion:

"Bee-eight-aa-seven…"
"Beeate-a-seven"
"Bee-ateea-seven"
"Beatta…"
"Beatty!!"

"That's it!" I shouted. "The victim's name, Oswald Beatty!"

"It must be one of his family members Watson, another Beatty. Recall how his assistant told us that many of his family members came to visit this evening and how they lived all over England, particularly in Yorkshire."

"But what about the rest of the phrase Holmes? "Beatty" is only part of it, the last part is 'Seven.' Could it refer to his seventh child perhaps?"

"You know he only had three children my dear old coot. But he did have many cousins… No, 'seven' must refer to something else, something which would identify one specific Beatty family member… " Holmes drifted off, contemplating the conundrum.

"By Jove I've got it!" he exclaimed. "Seven in this context must refer to the Seven River, which flows through northern Yorkshire. I'm willing to bet that Beatty had one and only one relative who lives along the banks of the Seven! Beatty's dying message has accused this person of the murder, and I am confident further investigation will prove this to be the case!"

"Excellent!" I cried.
"Elementary," he said.

Note: The puzzle featured in this story, featuring "retrograde analysis" was composed in 1972 and I came across it by accident on the internet. However, I have lost the name of the composer. If anyone knows the composer's name please tell me.